

wherein the communications protocol supports communication between the internal controller and any one of at least first and second different types of device for handling money, the first type handling money of a different type from those handled by the second type.

2. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second types of device are different members of a group consisting of a banknote validator and a card reader.

3. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the group further consists of a coin dispenser.

4. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications protocol is a bus-oriented protocol.

5. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the communications protocol is an MDB protocol.

6. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the internal controller is arranged to distinguish between said first and second type of device for handling money by a code received from said further device over said second port.

7. (Original) A method of communication for a money handling apparatus, including:
communicating with an external controller over a first port, and
communicating with a further money handling apparatus over a second port by means of a communications protocol supporting communication with any one of at least first and second different types of device for handling money, the first type handling money of a different type from that handled by the second type.

8. (Currently amended) A device for handling money, including:
a money handling apparatus;
an internal controller for controlling the money handling apparatus;
a first port for removable connection to an external controller for communication with the internal controller; and
a second port for removable connection to a further device for handling money for communication with the internal controller;
wherein the internal controller is arranged to copy the content of at least some signals between the first port and the second port without modification thereof.
9. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the content of all signals received on said first port is output without modification as signals on said second port and the content of all signals received on said second port is output without modification on said first port.
10. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the content of some of the signals received on the second port is modified prior to output on said first port.
11. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said signals, the content of which is modified, includes signals characteristic of the further device and not recognisable by said external controller.
12. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the internal controller implements, on both said first and second ports, a bus-oriented communications protocol.
13. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said signals are stored in memory prior to output.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of communication for a money handling apparatus, including:

communicating with an external controller over a first port; and
communicating with a further money handling apparatus over a second port;
wherein the content of at least some signals is copied between said first and second ports without modification.

15. (Original) A device for handling money, including;

a money handling apparatus;

an internal controller for controlling the money handling apparatus;

a first port for removable connection to an external controller for communication with the internal controller; and

a second port for removable connection to a further device for handling money for communication with the internal controller;

wherein the internal controller is arranged to convert between first units of value used for communications over said first port and second units of value used for communication over said second port.

16. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the internal controller is arranged to receive an indication of the value of money received by said further device in said second units, to convert said value to said first units, and to output data representing said value in said first units on said first port.

17. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the internal controller is arranged to receive a command including an indication of a value in said first units on said first port, to convert said value to said second units, and to output a corresponding command including an indication of said value in said second units on said second port.

18. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the internal controller is arranged to determine a first value of money received by said money handling apparatus, to receive an indication of a second value of money received by said further device in said second units, and to combine said first and second values as a combined value in a single set of units.

19. (Original) A method of communication for a money handling device, including:
communicating with an external controller via a first port,
communicating with a further money handling device via a second port, and
converting between first units of value used for communication over said first port and second units of value used for communication over said second port.

20. (Original) A device for handling money, including:
a money handling apparatus;
an internal controller for controlling the money handling apparatus;
a first port for removable connection to an external controller for communication with the internal controller; and
a second port for removable connection to a further device for handling money for communication with the internal controller;
wherein the internal controller is arranged to receive a code indicative of the type of the further device on the second port, and to output in response thereto on the first port an amended code representative to said external controller of a type different from that of the further device.

21. (Original) A method of communication for a money handling device, including:
communicating with an external controller via a first port,
communicating with a further money handling device via a second port,
receiving a code indicative of the type of the further device on the second port, and
outputting in response thereto on the first port an amended code representative to said external controller of a type different from that of the further device.

22. (Original) A device for handling money, including:
a money handling apparatus;
an internal controller for controlling the money handling apparatus; and
a plurality of first ports each arranged for removable connection to an external controller
for communication with the internal controller;
wherein the internal controller is arranged to detect to which of said first ports the
external controller is connected and to communicate with the external controller using a
communications protocol selected according to the detected one of the first ports.
23. (Original) A method of operating a money handling device having a plurality of ports
each arranged for removable connection to an external controller, including:
detecting to which of said ports the external controller is connected and communicating
with the external controller using a communications protocol selected according to the detected
one of the ports.